

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: TED KOPPEL INTERVIEW WITH SECRETARY

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

FOR CINCPAC: PASS DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL

NO. 5

PORTIONS OF KOPPEL INTERVIEW WITH SECRETARY WERE CONTAINED
IN PART 1 OF 3-PART KOPPEL SERIES ON DETENTE. PART 1 WAS
BROADCAST AS PART OF ABC EVENING NEWS JANUARY 20:

REASONER: "IT WAS BITTER COLD WHEN SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY
KISSINGER LANDED IN MOSCOW TONIGHT. BUT HE STEPPED FROM HIS
PLANE EXPRESSING A WARM RESOLVE TO TALK SERIOUSLY ABOUT
LIMITING STRATEGIC ARMS. OFFICIALS WITH KISSINGER ARE HOPE-
FUL THAT PROGRESS TOWARDS A SECOND SALT AGREEMENT, WHICH IS
SAID TO ALSO INVOLVE THE WHOLE FUTURE OF DETENTE. (SIC)

"DETENTE IS A WORD THAT AROUSES MIXED FEELINGS THESE DAYS.
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT TED KOPPEL HAS PREPARED A 3-PART
ANALYSIS OF HOW AND WHY AMERICA ENTERED INTO DETENTE, AND
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HERE'S THE FIRST PART:"

KOPPEL: "IT IS PERHAPS THE MOST OVER-WORKED AND LEAST UNDERSTOOD WORD OF THE '70'S. WHAT IS DETENTE? IS IT OLGA KORBETT? THE BOLSHOI OPERA? A GENIAL BREZHNEV? THE HISTORIC MEETING OF SOYUZ AND APOLLO? CERTAINLY THE WORD 'DETENTE' CONJURES UP ALMOST FORGOTTEN MEMORIES OF MORE THAN A GENERATION AGO, WHEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION WERE ALLIES. BUT DETENTE IS NOT AN ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN ALLIES. IT IS THE OUTGROWTH OF ANOTHER ERA OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS -- A WAR IN WHICH OUR ARMIES MOVED BUT NEVER MET; A WAR OF NERVES, OF BRINKMANSHIP; A COLD WAR. THE POLICY OF DETENTE GREW OUT OF THAT, AND THIS: (FILM CLIPS OF ATOMIC BLAST)

SECRETARY KISSINGER (VOICE-OVER CLIPS OF TANKS, MISSILES, ETC.): "THE BASIC PROBLEM IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION IS THE EMERGENCE OF THE SOVIET UNION INTO TRUE SUPER-POWER STATUS. AS LATE AS THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS, THE DISPARITY IN STRATEGIC POWER BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION WAS OVERWHELMING IN OUR FAVOR. IN THE '70'S AND '80'S THE SOVIET UNION WILL HAVE ACHIEVED EFFECTIVE STRATEGIC EQUALITY, WHICH MEANS THAT WHOEVER MAY BE AHEAD IN THE DAMAGE THEY CAN INFLICT ON THE OTHER, THE DAMAGE TO THE OTHER IN A GENERAL NUCLEAR WAR WILL BE OF A CATASTROPHIC NATURE."

KOPPEL: "AT ITS MOST SIMPLE LEVEL, THEN, DETENTE IS AN ATTEMPT TO ELIMINATE THE NUCLEAR OPTION FROM WHAT CONTINUES TO BE AN ADVERSARY RELATIONSHIP."

SECRETARY KISSINGER: "SALT, AND WHAT I DESCRIBED AS DETENTE, IS IN OUR COMMON INTEREST. IT IS NOT A FAVOR WE GRANT TO THE SOVIET UNION. IT IS AN INHERENT NECESSITY OF THE PRESENT PERIOD. AVOIDING NUCLEAR WAR IS NOT A FAVOR WE DO ANYBODY."

KOPPEL: "THERE ARE TWO BASIC POINTS TO BE MADE, THEN, ON THE ORIGINS OF DETENTE. IT IS A RELATIONSHIP THAT EXISTS BETWEEN ADVERSARIES, AND IT EVOLVED BECAUSE WHAT WAS ONCE A CLEAR MARGIN OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR SUPERIORITY HAS NOW ALL UNCLASSIFIED

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BUT DISAPPEARED. THAT HARSH REALITY REQUIRED A NEW POLICY -- EITHER A MASSIVE ESCALATION OF MILITARY SPENDING TO FORCE THE UNITED STATES AHEAD AGAIN, OR A POLICY THAT WOULD CONTROL FURTHER EXPANSION BY BOTH SIDES IN A BALANCED FASHION. THAT'S WHAT THE SALT TALKS ARE ABOUT, AND THAT'S WHY HENRY KISSINGER IS IN MOSCOW TODAY.

"QUITE APART FROM THE MILITARY ASPECT OF DETENTE, HOWEVER,

THERE IS A CONTINUING POLITICAL STRUGGLE BETWEEN WASHINGTON
AND MOSCOW. THAT, TOO, IS A PART OF DETENTE, AND WE'LL
EXAMINE THAT ASPECT IN OUR NEXT REPORT. I'M TED KOPPEL IN
WASHINGTON."

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